

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Page 1, please replace the paragraph [0001] with the following:

[0001] This application is a Continuation-In-Part of pending U.S. Patent application Serial No. 10/153,189, filed on May 20, 2002, entitled "Method for Sequencing Nucleic Acids By Observing The Uptake Update Of Nucleotides Modified With Bulky Groups," currently pending and claims priority thereof.

Page 26, under the subheading **AP Buffer:** of paragraph [0078], Example 3, please amend as follows:

- 100 mM NaCl
- 50 mM MgCl₂
- 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 9.5

0.1% ~~Tween-20~~ TWEEN 20™ (known generically as Polysorbate 20)

Please replace paragraph [0107] with the following amended paragraph.

[0107] In a more specific example as illustrated in **FIG. 6**, 20-100 µl of 3 µM SH-(CH₂)₆ACAACAACCATCGCCC-TAMRA (SEQ ID NO:1) oligo in 1X Tris-EDTA (TE) (or 1X Phosphate Buffered Saline buffer, PBS) is incubated with the gold substrate for various times from 1 hr to overnight) depending on the surface coverage requirements. Then the substrate is rinsed 3x with 1XPBS. In order to estimate the surface coverage, the SH-oligo is displaced by using ~ 14.3 mM mercaptoethanol in buffer. The supernatant after displacement contains SH-oligo in addition to some mercaptoethanol. The fluorescence of the supernatant may be measured using a spectrophotometer.